AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

- 1. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6352.
- 2. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
 - 3. (Original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.
- 4. (Original) A method for producing an S. epidermidis polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
- 5. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment thereof, wherein said nucleic acid is SEQ ID NO: 1450 2580.
- 6. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
 - 7. (Original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.
- 8. (Original) A method for producing an S. epidermidis polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
- 9. (Currently Amended) A probe comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least eight contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1450 2580.
 - 10. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide

sequence of at least eight nucleotides in length, wherein the sequence is hybridizable to a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1450 2580.

- 11. (Previously Presented) An immunogenic composition for prevention or treatment of an *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of a nucleic acid of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 12. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 11, further comprising an adjuvant.
- 13. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic of claim 11, further comprising one or more additional active ingredients.

Claims 14-16. Cancelled

- 17. (Previously Presented) A recombinant or substantially pure preparation of an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment thereof, wherein said polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 6352.
- 18. (Currently Amended) <u>An</u> The immunogenic composition for prevention or treatment of an *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 18, further comprising an adjuvant.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 18, further comprising one or more additional active ingredients.

Claims 21-31. Cancelled.

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence, wherein the nucleotide sequence is hybridizable under high stringency conditions to SEQ ID NO: 1450 2580 or its complements.

- 33. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1450 2580.
- 34. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 6352.